

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XXIII.

ASHLAND, O., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1901.

No. 38.

## Editorial

### Make a Note of This

This paper goes out unstitched and untrimmed. The wire stitching machine is being packed this week and sent to Chicago for repair. Next week's paper and probably next two issues will have to be sent out the same as this number. Open the paper, stick a pin about three inches from the top and another three inches from the bottom, then take your knife and open the closed leaves. We hope to have the machine back and in good repair by the middle of October.

### Our Church and Its School

Does the Brethren church fully recognize and appreciate the intimate and vital relation between our denomination and its school? A few there are, of course, educators and church leaders among our people who have given much time to the study of this question and are thoroughly conversant with all that a Christian school means to the denomination of which it is a vital part; they recognize and understand this relation because they have given both time and thought to it. But it is a lamentable fact that the major part of the membership of the Brethren church (the same is true of all churches) including both the ministry and the laity, is not awake to the importance and value of the Christian school as an element or factor in developing and strengthening church life and individual character. The denominational school of every church is supported by the few. True, the need of the Christian school is more generally recognized, but so far as the support of the church is concerned it is done in a very perfunctory way, and it must be acknowledged that the mass of the membership is almost criminally indifferent to one of its most important and vital interests, the denominational school. It is cause for rejoicing that among our own people there is an encouraging awakening along the line of higher education, and the woeful lack of enthusiasm which prevailed in former days touching the support of our school is being replaced by a zeal which bids fair to make Ashland College within the next few years a center of great spiritual power. In the *Religious Telescope* of a few weeks ago appears an article on the relation between the denomination and its school which so aptly applies to the conditions now prevailing in our church that we here reproduce it and ask a careful perusal of the same. The writer says:

The time has come when the Church must face its duty in seeking and planning to secure the more general and thorough education of its youth. This is essential to its

self-preservation. The Church, as an organization, must, above all things else, have vitality. It cannot live well without spiritual life; but this life must be intelligent and cultured. Our workers must be trained and generously furnished. If the Church would hold its choice young people, it must give higher education the foremost place in its thought, plans, and provisions. Boys and girls in our public and high schools, are realizing the possibilities, opportunities, and demands of life. Many of them have experienced an intellectual awakening. They have a thirst for knowledge, and an ambition to make the best and most of this life, which must be satisfied. If they do not find encouragement in our Church, they will go elsewhere. We can no longer disguise the fact. It is our task to recognize it and then meet it.

The school has a right to expect of the Church at least two things: First, the Church should furnish it with its choice young people. Thousands of these may be found in our homes. They are now in a critical state. They need help and wise counsel. They scarcely know what to do with their lives. Their future hangs in the balance. A timely word of advice from their parents or pastor may turn their choice toward the college and put them into a new world of light and power. Personality is essential in running a college. Student attendance is, therefore, the first need of our schools. Buildings, grounds, and splendid equipment cannot make a college without the presence of our boys and girls.

If every person in our Church would be loyal to our schools and work to that end, the number of students might be doubled this year. It is almost criminal indifference for parents, pastors, and alumni to allow their young friends to drift and turn away from the advantages of higher education. Mark it: Pastors who do not study to turn the feet of some of the young people of their congregation to college halls, are derelict of a plain and high duty. What higher joy can one ask than to know that he has thus helped a boy or girl into a new world and a larger life, to work for God and their fellow-men?

The denomination must also furnish the money to properly equip its schools. We will not venture to indicate the number of educational institutions the Church should support. It is clear, however, that a few schools well maintained and equipped are more desirable than the many poorly furnished and constantly struggling for existence. The money is in the hands of our people. We believe that God, even now, has his eye upon those who have the means to lift all our educational institutions out of debt into a larger sphere of efficiency and usefulness.

Christian men of wealth are God's stewards, and will